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# Shakespeare Celebration,

1890.

## Descriptive Catalogue

OF

# An Exhibition

HELD IN

The Ancient Guild Hall,

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON,

Monday, 19th April, to Saturday, 8th May,

illustrating an Inventory dated 1595,

and including a number of Ancient Objects

connected with some passages in the

Play of

"THE TAMING OF THE SHREW."

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EDWARD FOX, PRINTER, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON.



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### Exhibition Committee.

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**HOLTE**, FRANK A., Albany Place.

**HOWE**, JOHN, Albany Place (*ex-officio*).

**SCRIVEN**, MRS. E. A., Tyler Street.

**WHITCOMBE**, A., Bridge Street.

**BAKER**, OLIVER, Lindenhurst.

**BRASSINGTON**, W. S., F.S.A., Southcroft.

**BOND**, ACTON, Knaresborough Place, S.W.

**EVANS**, F. W., Appleton Mad (*Chairman*).

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**EDWARD FOX**, Bridge Street, *Hon. Secretary Exhibition Committee.*

## The Inventory of Richard Baker, of Stratford-upon-Avon. Died 1595.

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The true Inventorye of the goodes and Cattells of Richard Baker late of old Stratford in the parish of Stratford vpon Avon in the Countye of Warwycke husbandman decessed taken the *ix<sup>th</sup>* day of May 1595 & in the *xxxvij<sup>th</sup>* yeare of the Rayngne of our Soverayngne Lady Elizabeth by the grace of god Queene of Eynghland, ffraunce, & Ierland defender of the ffayth &c. by the discretyon of John Gibbs John Palmer, & Abraham Sturley.

Inprimis his weryng Apperrell prayed at —	xijs iiijd
It. in the Kytchyn two table bords wyth one frame viij Joyned stooles, one chyre, a Joyned cubbord & ij quysshyns at	xvs
It. one sylver spone	iijs iiijd
It. iiij brasse potts & a dabnet of brasse	xijs iiijd
It. one fyer shovell & a pere of tongs	viijd
It. one great brasse pan & iiij kettels	xxs
It. ij spytts, one pere of Cobbards one pere of pott hooks, a grydyron, one friyng pan & a pere of lynkes prised at	iijs iiijd
It. v. Candlestyckes & a chaffyng dish of laten	vs
It. platters great & small, disshes, sawcers, basons, saltcellers old and newe of tynne xxxj pieces	xvs
It. v flytches of bacon	xijs
It. one knedyng trogh, one Churne thre lomes iiij payles ij barrells one tubbe of salt, disshes trenchers & other small Implements at	vs
It. one old vtyng fatte one great spynnyng whele thre wodden bottels one lether bottell a ladder & a pannell prayed at	iijs iiijd

*In the Chamber.*

Inprimis one ffether bed, iij flocke bedds, ij boulsters wyth ffethers, iij boulsters wyth flockes & iij pyllowes —	xxx
It. iij Coverletts vj pere of blankets & ij twyllys —	xls
It. xiiij payre of sheets, xxi table napkins two short bord clothes, & other small lynnens —	xxx
It. one bedsted one truclebed ij coffers & a paynted tester cloth —	vjs viijd
It. iij bagges —	ijs

*In an upper chamber.*

Inprimis malt iij quarter & iij strycke —	vj <i>l</i>
It. in a barne at brige town xvij or twentye theave of Wheate at —	v <i>l</i> vjs viijd
It. vj beastes praysed at —	ix <i>l</i>
It. xxi sheepe praysed at —	v <i>l</i>
It. v. geldyngs & mares & one colt —	v <i>l</i>
It. one long Cart, one payre of Wheles yron bound, one harrowe, one plow & yrons a swyngle tree, a chayne & the geares furnyture of the teame at —	xxvjs viijd
It. xxi lands and butts of barley & six lands pease & fytes —	vj <i>l</i> xs
It. iij swyne at —	xv <i>l</i>
It. the kylne heare at —	vs
It. all other small & great trassh & od thyngs nameles —	ijs
	Somma totalis lx <i>l</i> iiijs iiijd

*Exhibited at Stratford-upon-Avon in the court of John Bromhall, Vicar 1 Octr 1595.*

*Administration granted to John Gibbs & Abraham Sturkey.*

Tunc 10<sup>th</sup> Jan

If one silver porringer  
If in brass hottes a dozen of brass pynches  
If one iron shovell a pece of iron 2 vij d  
If one great brass pan 3 inche 2  
If in brass one pece of Cabbards one pece of  
pott hoss, a dredyon one fynge pan a pece  
of hunkel fyed at 2  
If one Cambray pott a chaffing dish of lacedeys  
If platters great & small, dished, plateres, basins  
succers old and newe of fyne poyson pott  
If 5. foyches of bacon 2  
If one knedging trapp, one Chayre for howes  
my payles in boordes one fynde of salt, dished  
frument & other small implements at 2  
If one old wryng fasse one great swymmyng barge  
for wooden hottes on leather bottle a ladder  
a pannell fyed at 2

In the Chambers

If one fayre bed, my flock bedde in bonyard  
If fayres, in bonyard with flocke pynches  
flockes 2

If in Corderetts by pece of blankets & in fayres  
If 4. pece of pates, pate table napkins  
silk hand clappes, & other small lyment 2

If one beddit one fynded in coffers  
After shoff  
P. deth 2

If meat in 2



**N**O Inventory of the personal effects of William Shakespeare having survived with his will, it is not possible to say what was the number or character of his goods and chattels. There exists, however, in the priceless stores of local records at the Birthplace, a list of the belongings of one Richard Baker, who was an official of Stratford in 1595; and Warwickshire being still rich in antiquity, it has been decided to attempt to illustrate it, the aim being to get together such examples of English furniture and domestic implements as are mentioned in the Inventory, a printed version and a fac-simile of which are here given.

It is hoped by this Exhibition to present to those whose lives are spent amidst very different scenes some graphic idea of the surroundings and daily life of a fellow-townsman of Shakespeare's during his lifetime.

It has not been possible to represent all the items by objects which were actually in existence at that time, but habits and modes of living were more persistent then than now, and a proportion of the articles used in the time of Shakespeare were also common to much earlier and to somewhat later times.

It has been thought best to limit the Exhibition strictly to the ordinary domestic furniture of the time or slightly later, so as to get the impression of the actual surroundings amidst which Shakespeare lived and wrote, and not what 19th century artists, illustrators, and others have considered they were or ought to have been.

Some of the property enumerated in the Inventory we have not attempted to include, such as feather beds, which must always have been much the same as now; and swine, poultry, sheep, etc., are not possible.

Several of the objects shown may seem at first sight to have in themselves but slight artistic or antiquarian interest, but they help to make the group more complete.



## LIST OF OBJECTS

### Exhibited to illustrate the Inventory.

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— *The numbers refer to Tickets on the several Objects.* —

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#### 1.

“*In primis his weryng Apperrell.*”

A good instance of the apparel worn by a civilian of Richard Baker's station is that of Nicholas Lane whose effigy, dated 1595, stands in the east wall of Alveston Church, about two miles from Stratford.—*Photograph by Mr. Jethro A. Cossins.*

#### 2.

A slightly later example is the portrait, dated 1624, of an unknown man, whose shelf of books shows his literary pursuits.

## 3 - 5.

LENT BY MR. OLIVER BAKER.

*“Two table bords wyth one frame.”*

The table of this time had always a loose top for convenience in moving it, the former being separate. The examples shown are probably a little later than the date of the Inventory.

## 6.

*“viij joyned stooles.”*

The framed furniture made with mortice and tenon was called “joined,” to distinguish it from the ruder kind made of slabs of wood united with pins. Stools were much more numerous than chairs, especially when, as in this household, there were no benches.

Probably none of the stools shown are actually Elizabethan.

## 7.

*“One chyre” (chair).*

As there was only one chair in the house it was probably a handsomely carved one, and the same may be said of the cupboard, which was probably a two-storeyed Court Cupboard, and carved.

“*The two quysshyns*” (cushions) were no doubt for use on the permanent benches which were often built with the Elizabethan house and part of it. These are not illustrated.

## 8.

*“One sylver spone.”*

By the kindness of Messrs. Crichton Bros., of Old Bond Street, W., we are able to show three silver spoons, each of which might have been the one possessed by Richard Baker, though it probably most resembled the seal top example.

**9 - 11.**

*"iij brasse potts & a dabnet of brasse."*

Pots in the 16th century were usually of bell-metal or brass, and were always numerous in a good house. The word "dabnet" is puzzling, and none of the learned authorities consulted can throw any light on it; but it seems likely that it was a kind of skillet or saucepan.

**12, 13.**

*"One fyer shovell & a pere of tongs."*

It is hard to say what would be the exact shape of these, but those shown are early ones.

**14.**

*"The great brasse pan"* was probably for making cheese.

**15, 16.**

"*The spyts*" would be turned by hand, as mechanical spits were later. This primitive spit was usual from the Middle Ages down to the invention of the smoke-jack in the 18th century. Two perfect examples of the latter still remain, with their spits and appliances complete, in the kitchen of the Stratford-upon-Avon Town Hall.

**17.**

*"The pere of cobbars"* were sometimes called cob-irons, and were racks for supporting the spits when in use for roasting.

**18, 19.**

*"The pott hooks"* also had racks for adjusting the height of the pot.

**20.**

*“A grydyyron.”*

These were often highly ornamented.

**21.**

“*The friyng pan*” having to be used on a flat hearth had a handle of considerable length.

**22, 23.**

“*The pere of lynkes*” were perhaps a relic of Richard Baker’s official career. They were leg-irons for prisoners.

**24 - 28.**

“*The v candlestyckes*” were probably of wood and iron, as well as brass. The chaffyng dish of laten was a shallow and small vessel of brass, which is not shown.

**29.**

As pewter is not mentioned in the Inventory, the great and small platters, dishes, saucers, basons and salt cellars, here described as of “tynne,” were doubtless pewter.

“*v flytches of bacon.*”—Not shown.

**30.**

“*The knedyng trogh*” (shown) is of the time of Shakespeare.

**31.**

“*The churne*” would be of the vertical plunging type, as shown.

**32, 33.**

“*The lomes*” were vessels (most often of wood) with wide mouths.

**34 - 38.**

“*iiij payles*” would be of wood or of leather. The dishes and trenchers would be of wood, and the latter for the most part square.

“*The old vtyng fatte*” is difficult to elucidate, and none of the authorities on old MSS. available can explain it.

**39.**

“*One great spynnyng whele.*” This would be a large hand-turned wheel for the spinning of yarn from wool.

**40 - 41.**

“*The wodden bottels.*” The small wooden kegs, still used in the Warwickshire harvest fields, and “*one lether bottell*,” the earlier vessel, which they have replaced, the “*ladder*” and “*the pannell*,” would be of the ordinary kind.

**42.**

LENT BY MR. A. WHITCOMBE.

The bedstead shown is of the type likely to be used by Richard Baker, but the bedding is not shown, nor the “*truclebed*,” which was made to slide under the larger one when not wanted.

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**43.**

“*Coffers*” were made of simple slabs of wood, not framed together.

**44.**

“*Small & great trassh & od thyngs nameles.*”



— LIST OF OBJECTS —  
illustrating passages in  
“THE TAMING OF THE SHREW.”

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INDUCTION.

HOSTESS: “*A pair of stocks, you rogue!*”

1.

The side and bottom pieces of the ancient stocks are from Ilmington, nine miles from Stratford-upon-Avon, and about five miles from Wincot.

The iron fastenings belonged to the stocks at Loxley, about four miles from Stratford.

2.

SLY: “*Go to thy cold bed, and warm thee.*”

The beds of the 16th and 17th century were sometimes stuffed with straw or feathers, and laid on a mattress of plaited rushes, which often formed the bed itself. Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick, is represented in the Beauchamp Chapel, Warwick, as clad in the robes of a Knight of the Garter, and lying on a rush bed (like the one exhibited) with one end rolled up for a pillow. Another instance is the effigy in Tenbury Church, where Sir Thomas Acton, father-in-law to Sir Thomas Lucy, of Charlecote (who was satirised by Shakespeare in “*The Merry Wives of Windsor,*”) is represented on a similar rush bed.

## 3.

*“And burn sweet wood to make the lodging sweet.”*

The ancient carved bellows, illustrating this passage, contains in the brass nozzle a small chamber in which “sweet wood” or herbs could be inserted with a morsel of live charcoal, so that by working the bellows the fragrant smoke would be diffused into the room.

The Plague Pan (No. 4), it may be assumed, was used for herbs, the smoke, which would escape through the holes in the lid, being accounted disinfectant.

## 4.

*“Will’t please your honour taste of these conserves?”*

Conserves were often made by the ladies in great houses. The accompanying MS. book of cookery was compiled by the mistress of Shipton Hall, Salop, in 1687, and gives several recipes for making conserves.

## 5.

*“Go, sirrah, take them to the buttery.”*

Illustrated with drawings of ancient butteries.

The buttery in a lord’s house was placed at the end of the hall. It had in early times an aperture in the wall or door, called the buttery-hatch, which was superseded by the “buttery-bar,” a door in two pieces, with a shelf on the lower half. This half-door was secured by a bolt placed so near the floor that the unauthorised toper could not reach it by leaning over, but it could be readily unfastened by the foot of the butler in charge. Only privileged persons would be taken into the buttery itself, the liquor as a rule being dispensed through the hatch.

**6.**

*“For God’s sake, a pot of small ale.”*

The ale-pot of Shakespeare’s time would be of wood or leather, rarely of earth or pewter.

**7.**

*“A cup of sack.”*

In this case a silver stoup was probably meant, but the “cup” was generally a shallow bowl of wood.”

**8.**

*“As on a pillory.”*

Photograph of ancient pillory.

**9.**

*“A joint stool.”*

(See No. 6 of Inventory).

**10.**

*“In ivory coffers have I stuff’d my crowns;  
In cypress chests my arras counterpoints.”*

Ancient Italian cypress chest, or “cassone,” and old Italian tapestry.

**11.**

*“Pewter and brass and all things that belong to house or  
housekeeping.”*

**12.**

*“Be the jacks fair within, the jills fair without?”*

This refers to drinking jacks of leather, of which three examples are shown.

**Note on the local allusions in the Induction to  
"The Taming of the Shrew."**

BEGGAR: "What, would you make me mad?  
Am not I Christopher Slie, old Sies son of  
Burton-heath?"

\* \* \* \*

"Aske Marian Hacket, the fat Alewife of Wincot,  
if shee know me not:"

\* \* \* \*

FIRST SERVANT: "Sometimes you would call out for  
Cicely Hacket."

BEGGAR: "Ay, the woman's maide of the house."

**INDUCTION.—First Folio.**

In the original, or foundation play, "*The Taming of a Shrew*," published in 1594, there are no local allusions, while in the Induction to "*The Taming of the Shrew*" there are several, and these have been thought to be evidence of the Shakespearean authorship of the first scenes.

"The Beggar" gives us his name, Sly or Slie, a name in the Registers at Stratford-upon-Avon.

Wincot is one of the allusions which has puzzled the commentators.

Did Shakespeare allude to Wilmcote, his mother's home; to Wilnecote, near Tamworth; or to Wincot in Gloucestershire? In support of the Gloucestershire Wincot we have the following facts:

1. Wincot is situated in Clifford Chambers, an adjoining parish to Stratford-upon-Avon.
2. In the register of an adjoining parish, Quinton, the name Hackett is found, and in one entry the scribe formed the letter "C" first, and turned it into "S" for "Sara" when transcribing the register, as though "Cicely" was in his mind.

3. At Wincot there is a tradition of long standing that the three fine mulberry trees in the garden were planted by Shakespeare. Although now only one farm house is left, there was a hamlet there, as is proved by foundations recently discovered.

The name "Burton-heath" has been taken to be Barton-on-the-Heath, in Gloucestershire. But the 1623 Folio reads "Burton-heath," and both Barton and Burton-on-Trent are in the same Staffordshire district as Wilnecote. Sir Aston Cokain published in 1658 some verses addressed to Mr. Clement Fisher, of Wincott (*i.e.*, Wilnecote).

*"Shakespeare your Wincot ale hath much renoren,  
That fox'd a beggar so," &c.*

There is also a tradition (which it would be interesting to investigate) that Shakespeare slept at an inn, "The Three Tuns," at Sutton Coldfield, when travelling from Stratford to the North. This agrees with a similar tradition preserved at the inn at Grendon, on the London road.

W. S. BRASSINGTON.

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*A number of valuable engravings, interesting play-bills, editions of old plays and various books bearing upon "The Taming of the Shrew," have been kindly lent by the Chairman and Governors of the Shakespeare Memorial Association.*



1592

Christenings in the parsonage of  
Doxey Elizabeth.

Margarett Syme the daughter of John Syme of Doxey  
Washington baptised the 20th day of November.  
Sara Garrett the daughter of Robert Garret made baptised  
the one and twentieth day of November.  
Elizabeth wife the daughter of Thomas Head made  
baptised the fourt and twentieth day of November.  
Isaac Head the daughter of Isaac Head made  
baptised the eighth day of January.  
Isaac Head the daughter of Isaac Head made  
baptised the eleventh day of January.

John Myatt the daughter of William Myatt made  
baptised the fourt and fifth day of January.  
Elizabeth wife the daughter of John Myatt the daughter  
made baptised the seventeenth day of February.



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